

during the calender years 1987 and 88 for playing a part in the seizure of contraband goods. However, the information regarding the amount of rewards given to police personnel of Maharashtra, particularly in Sindhudurg district during the last 3 years is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) There is no such proposal at present.

Import of Natural Rubber

3738. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of natural rubber imported during each of the last three years;
- (b) whether a large quantity of natural rubber imported from Malaysia in 1990 is still lying unutilised with the State Trading Corporation;
- (c) if so, the details therefor;
- (d) the justification for importing it; and
- (e) the resultant loss incurred by S.T.C on account of this import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The State Trading Corporation of India Limited has imported the following quantities of natural rubber during the last three years:-

1988-89 51,363 Tonnes

1989-90 26,549 Tonnes

1990-91 31,699 Tonnes

(b) A quantity of 12,275 MT of natural

rubber imported by STC in 1990 is still with them.

(c) Stock had been retained to ensure adequate inventory of natural rubber in India for meeting needs of the domestic industry.

(d) The imports were made on the basis of the projected demand-supply position and the need to maintain adequate inventory.

(e) The resultant loss, if any would be known only after the stocks are liquidated.

Cooperation in the Field of Defence

3739. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the countries cooperating India in the field of defence; and
- (b) the details of the agreements made in this regard country-wise during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). India has defence cooperation arrangements with a number of friendly foreign countries. In view of the sensitive nature of the matter it will not be in the national security interest to disclose details about the countries involved and the nature and extent of cooperation agreements we have with them.

Export of Coffee

3740. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Coffee is becoming more popular abroad;
- (b) if is, the steps taken to increase the export of coffee during the last three years;